

United States Environmental Protection Agency, Region 10
Office of Compliance and Enforcement, Groundwater Protection Unit (OCE-082)
1200 Sixth Avenue
Seattle, Washington 98101

NOTICE OF PROPOSED ISSUANCE OF A CLASS I
UNDERGROUND INJECTION CONTROL (UIC) PERMIT
FOR THE DISPOSAL OF OIL-FIELD PRODUCED WATER AND NON-HAZARDOUS
INDUSTRIAL WASTE FLUID
AT THE MILNE POINT UNIT ON THE NORTH SLOPE OF ALASKA

Public Notice Issuance Date: September 30, 2004
Closure Date: November 1, 2004

1. Applicant

BP Exploration (Alaska), Inc.
900 East Benson Boulevard
Post Office Box 196612
Anchorage, Alaska 99519-6612

EPA Permit Number: AK-11005-A

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has direct implementation responsibility in Alaska for the regulation of Class I injection wells through the Underground Injection Control (UIC) program, which is authorized by Part C of the Safe Drinking Water Act. Class I injection wells are used for the deep disposal of industrial waste into naturally saline ground water, beneath any aquifers which could serve as current or future underground sources of drinking water (USDWs).

EPA is proposing to grant a permit to BP Exploration (Alaska), Inc., also known as BPXA, to drill and operate one (1) Class I non-hazardous waste injection well at B-Pad in the Milne Point Unit oil field on the Alaskan North Slope.

EPA has determined that underground injection is the most appropriate disposal method for the non-hazardous waste fluids and the produced water generated at the Milne Point Unit during the expected 15-year project lifetime. The Class I injection well is the most environmentally sound method for disposal of the excess produced water. The Class I underground injection well also meets the objectives of minimizing storage, zero discharge of production and domestic wastes and limiting impacts on the surface of the Arctic tundra. The Class I well will lower safety and environmental risks to the Milne Point Area, by reducing handling and transportation activities and by providing safe subsurface disposal in a controlled manner.

This EPA Class I permit would allow disposal of produced water and other non-hazardous fluids into the sandstone injection intervals of the Prince Creek/Ugnu and Schrader Bluff/West Sak

Formations, approximately 4270 to 5050 feet beneath the surface. The base of the permafrost is roughly 2000 feet beneath the surface.

2. Tentative Determination

EPA has tentatively determined to issue an Underground Injection Control (UIC) permit to the above listed applicant.

3. Public Comments

Persons wishing to comment must do so in writing by the close of the Public Comment period, November 1, 2004 at 5 pm Pacific Daylight Time (PDT). All comments should include the name, address, and telephone number of the person commenting, a concise statement of the exact basis of any comment, and the relevant facts upon which it is based. All written comments and requests should be submitted to Thor Cutler of the UIC program at the above address or via e-mail to cutler.thor@epa.gov

4. Public Hearings

The Environmental Protection Agency has tentatively scheduled a public hearing to be held on Monday, November 3, 2004 at 7 p.m. in the Meeting Room of the Hampton Inn, located at 4301 Credit Union Drive (at C Street and Tudor Road) in Anchorage, Alaska. However, this hearing may be canceled in the absence of any specific written requests for such a hearing. Written requests for a hearing on the proposed permit must be received by Thor Cutler at the above Seattle street address or via e-mail at cutler.thor@epa.gov not later than October 20, 2004 at 5 pm PDT.

5. Administrative Record

Copies of the proposed UIC permit, explanatory fact sheet, and permit application are on file and may be viewed at EPA's Regional Office Library any time between 8:30 a.m. and 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. Copies of the draft permit and fact sheet may also be requested from Thor Cutler at (206) 553-1673. The draft permit and fact sheet are also available from the EPA Alaska Operations Office, Room 537, Federal Building, 222 West 7th Avenue, #19, Anchorage, Alaska **(907) 271-5083**. The proposed permit and fact sheet may be obtained through the Internet at www.epa.gov/r10earth/uic.htm
